Application No.: Not Yet Assigned Docket No.: 08196-00017-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Holger Bengs et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: 1615

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: S. T. Tran

For: SPHERICAL MICROPARTICLES

CONTAINING LINEAR POLYSACCHARIDES

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.